



# MEDIA RESPONSE

29 JUNE 2020

## Official Information Act request:

Sam Hurley, NZ Herald, Tobacco Interceptions 2017-2020

## NOTES

1. The information in this document was obtained from the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) database. While the information is considered correct at the date it was extracted (29 June 2020), it may be amended or reviewed at any time. This document contains information on interceptions of tobacco from January 2017 to May 2020.

## Terminology

2. When Customs finds prohibited goods or goods that have been, undeclared, mis-declared or undervalued for revenue evasion purposes at the border, it is referred to as an 'interception'. From there Customs takes custody of goods, at which point they are 'detained'. Goods that are 'detained' can be either released back to the importer (usually when conditions/requirements have been met e.g. duty and GST paid, doctor's prescription/permit produced etc) or formally 'seized'. Seizure is a specific legal action that alters the legal status of the goods and instigates a sequence of legal requirements.
3. Goods which cross the border are either legitimate or prohibited (conditional or absolute). Prohibited goods include controlled drugs and prescription medicines, drug paraphernalia, objectionable material, weapons, copyright/trade mark goods (IPR), items containing endangered species (CITES), and items covered by the Customs Import Prohibition Order (CIPO).
4. If goods are intercepted or detained it is usually because:
  - a person failed to declare them
  - a person made an incorrect declaration or produced false or incorrect documents
  - they are prohibited or restricted
  - a person attempted to evade duty.
5. Customs also detains goods which are abandoned, for example cigarettes and alcohol left at the airport.

6. A Customs Controlled Area (CCA) is a secure and controlled environment in which the activities that take place are monitored or conducted by Customs. This includes places where goods are inspected and where duty free or excisable goods are manufactured, sold or stored.
7. Other locations include Customhouse, commercial premises and residential premises.

**Information requested:**

Interceptions of Tobacco 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

Type of Goods	Location	Grams	Items	Incidents
Tobacco - Cigarettes & Cigars	Airport	-	74040	136
	CCA	-	512132	33
	Mail Centre	-	2374600	-
	Other	-	57705	18
	Seaport	-	51140	5
Tobacco - Loose	Airport	31498.7	1	48
	CCA	300213.44	-	7
	Mail Centre	211042.47	1	-
	Other	270	-	2
Tobacco Products - Abandoned	Airport	2662646.47	1820	-
	CCA	266448	-	-
	Mail Centre	443231	-	-

Interceptions of Tobacco 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018

Type of Goods	Location	Grams	Items	Incidents
Tobacco - Cigarettes & Cigars	Airport	-	123330	164
	CCA	-	397702	110
	Mail Centre	3071.00	872517	-
	Other	-	1527784	15
	Seaport	-	1056894	24
Tobacco - Loose	Airport	178842.45	2	57
	CCA	57574.00	-	9
	Mail Centre	159440.00	-	-
	Other	14.00	1	1
Tobacco Products - Abandoned	Airport	2281387.18	-	-
	CCA	Not Stated	-	-
	Mail Centre	127520.00	-	-

Interceptions of Tobacco 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019

Type of Goods	Location	Grams	Items	Incidents
Tobacco - Cigarettes & Cigars	Airport	-	246374	407
	CCA	-	994771	82
	Mail Centre	-	2622140	-
	Other	-	665150	30
	Seaport	-	16836	23
Tobacco - Loose	Airport	185525.85	-	119
	CCA	27633	-	6
	Mail Centre	336061.07	-	-
	Other	60	-	1
	Seaport	787	-	2
Tobacco Products - Abandoned	Airport	1574205.9	-	-
	CCA	123991	-	-
	Mail Centre	228810.35	-	-
	Other	50	-	-

Interceptions of Tobacco 1 January 2020 to 31 May 2020

Type of Goods	Location	Grams	Items	Incidents
Tobacco - Cigarettes & Cigars	Airport	80	35792	87
	CCA	-	741287	44
	Mail Centre	-	282075	-
	Other	-	4000	8
	Seaport	-	11254	27
Tobacco - Loose	Airport	19092.2	-	33
	CCA	980	-	3
	Mail Centre	43990	-	-
	Seaport	1050	-	1
Tobacco Products - Abandoned	Airport	518735	3	99
	CCA	73059	-	3
	Seaport	-	460	1

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